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MANHOOD IN ITS AMERICAN TYPE

MARTYN SUMMERBELL

HUMAN PERSONALITY SERIES

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MANHOOD IN ITS AMERICAN TYPE

BY

MARTYN SUMMERBELL, LL. D.

President of Palmer Institute—Starkey Seminary
Vice President of Defiance College, Ohio

Author of Religion in College Life
Faith for the College Man
Special Services for Ministers, etc.

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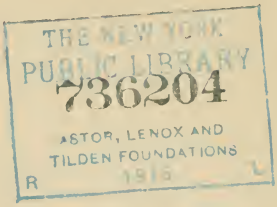

MADE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PREFACE

THIS book is given to the public because the writer believes firmly in America, in the men who under God helped make her what she is, and in her future.

Doubtless the keen eyed critic will note slips and omissions in these pages, and possibly more of the latter than of the former; but if the reader discovers the message, which is none too obvious, the complaints of others will not matter.

It may be said that the tone of the book is over optimistic, and that America has her share of creatures who pinch and screw, who are long in cunning and short in honor and who violate every law human or divine, all of which is very little to the point, for the view here given is of the average American; and as for the undeveloped, the degenerates and the reversions from type, such have no more to do with the real American than the litter under the bench of the cabinet worker

has to do with his finished product, whose value and beauty will long abide after the chips and shavings have gone to their own place.

And too it may be observed that the American is not commended for his devotion to religion. Unfortunately it is the fact that our American, who is certainly generous, honest and noble hearted, is quite too apt to neglect his religious obligations, and is content to pass them over to his wife and daughters. When he comes to himself he will remedy this defect, and when he puts the same energy into his religion that he displays in his bridge building and his reclamation of the desert, we shall see him more regularly at church, and there will be more general acknowledgment of God, and more reclamation of human aridities; and then some other hand can write the book in which this bettered condition may be fully set forth. And that such desirable consummation may not be too long deferred is the hope of the subscriber,

Martyn Summerbell.

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I

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA

MANHOOD IN ITS AMERICAN TYPE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA

TO a student of affairs who is particularly concerned with national traits and customs, it is interesting to observe the frank unanimity with which the world at large is coming to characterize our nation and people as America and Americans. Some citizens who are not so friendly to us as they might be have raised the accusation that we Americans, beguiled by our natural acquisitiveness and greed, have seized and converted to our own use and aggrandizement these appellatives, which by good right appertain to two great Continental divisions, and they ask us to cease such malversation and misappropriation. But after extended investigation there seems to be sufficient reason to conclude that our Americans must be acquitted of any misdoing in

the business. Far indeed from purloining these titles, when we arrive at the facts in the case it will appear that they have been conferred upon us by others, by the world outside, because they are more convenient and more appropriate than any that have been devised before. In the past it has been only with difficulty that a European could characterize a citizen of this Republic, who happened to be traveling abroad. No such embarrassment was experienced in mention of a European neighbor, for it was the simplest thing possible to point him out in any assemblage and say that he was a Frenchman, a Spaniard or a Turk; but when it came to naming one of us there was no apt equivalent at hand. The English for a long while had a way of indicating a man from our country by saying, "He is from the States," but as everybody understands that was an awkward circumlocution. Elsewhere in Europe they sometimes mentioned us as "Visitors from

the United States," which was very correct, but if anything it was even more clumsy. Now it is a principle with all who study the growth of language, that all forms of expression which are frequently used tend toward abbreviation. Superfluous syllables are dropped out. Troublesome terminations are contracted. Everywhere and always the complicated form gives place to the one that is more simple. And so it presently came to pass in the most natural way that Europeans who were speaking of us dropped the most of that tedious form, "The United States of America," and condensed its essence in the final term, "America." And so a man from our shores was alluded to simply as "an American." The practice had speedy acceptance and has now become general all over the Continent of Europe. A notable instance, which shows how widespread this usage has become, occurs in an interview which an American press correspondent recently had

with Constantine, the reigning king of Greece. In the course of the conversation the king alluded to the problem which his country is facing in the number of Greeks who are leaving their country to make their home over here. He spoke of more than 300,000 Greeks who had come to this country, of whom about 45,000 returned to Greece to fight with the Greek armies in the last two Balkan wars. Many of these were now back in America. But this second migration, so the king stated, was with a great difference. The first time they came here alone. Now on their second coming they were bringing their families with them. The interview is important enough at this point to use the king's own language. Thus he continues,

"After they had served their country nobly in the Balkan wars they took their families with them on the second trip. For then it was no longer an experiment, fraught with risks and dangers of unknown adventures.

They had been to America once. They had learned when and how to live. They knew where to go to get there, even when encumbered with their families and their household goods. So when they sailed for the west the second time it was with all their belongings, not so much in the spirit of the ancient Greeks, going into the world in search of fortune and adventure, as has been the habit of Greeks for 35 centuries, but rather as prospective Americans, almost all of them quitting their mother country forever."

Here, as it appears, the king of Greece readily terms our land as America, and our people as Americans. And so we must recognize, precisely as some achieve greatness, and some have it thrust upon them, so we have had the title American thrust upon us.

And now semi-officially we observe that the President of the United States has sanctioned this usage. For in his great address before the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, October 11th, 1915, Pres. Wil-

son portrayed the prime duty of Americans, and incidentally endorsed America as the appropriate name for the United States of America. I cite a portion of his speech in which he says,

"It is necessary that we should consolidate the American principle. Every political action, every social action, should have for its object in America at this time to challenge the spirit of America; to ask that every man and woman who thinks first of America should rally to the standards of our life."

Now since we have acquired the titles of America and Americans in this manner, and since we find the usage so well fixed that the king of Greece as well as the President of the United States can accept it without hesitation, and since we have proved in practice how simple and easy of speech it is, we can willingly accept it for ourselves and raise no complaint when all the world styles us Americans as often as it pleases.

When one approaches discussion of the theme, Manhood in its American Type, it is well to realize the magnitude of the task. For any adequate representation of this American nation, or of any single phase of its phenomenal greatness, would require far more time and space than is at present command.

For this America of ours is great, grandly, magnificently, stupendously great. And in this statement one is not to be confined to the features of her physical and industrial preeminence, but is rather to consider the evidences of her social and moral grandeur. True enough it is that she has a vast domain, which stretches from our Canadian border to Mexico, and from Eastport in Maine to the Golden Gate of the Pacific; that she has her lofty mountain ranges, beside which the storied Alps dwindle to the proportions of wayside hills; that she incloses within her territory vast rivers which are navigable inland to a greater mileage than the entire circumfer-

ence of some of the haughty nations of Central Europe; that the value of her mineral deposits and the output of her fertile farms are a world wide wonder; that her systems of railway transportation and of electrical communication are the most complete and the best distributed of any on the face of the earth; that her foundries and manufactories of every class deliver a product that fairly staggers the imagination, and that she owns an astonishing number of thriving cities, of which there are no less than thirty, whose population surpasses that of London, the capital city of England, in the day of Henry VIII. All these are striking tokens of wealth and power, but when all that is possible in respect to their value has been said, it remains that they are to be estimated merely as incidental and accessory beside that strong and indomitable American spirit, which braved the perils of the sea, and faced the privations of a continent that was all unknown, and that plunged into the

loneliness of a trackless wilderness, and which in the first century and a half of its occupation of the New World had won an established foothold all along our Atlantic coast; and which in its next century and a half had crossed the mountain barrier to the westward and subdued the gloomy forest solitudes, and wiped the Great American Desert of the Northwest from the map, and so taken complete possession of the land from ocean to ocean, and from the Rio Grande to Nome in northernmost Alaska.

In this amazing multiplication of her population and in covering her vast domain in the North American Continent with comfortable homes in the space of four generations, America has wrought the miracle of miracles. We may well ask if we ourselves half realize the magnitude of the accomplishment. Frequently the makers of history in the stress of their anxious endeavor and in the intensity of their absorption in their immedi-

ate duty lose the perspective of their own achievements. One does not need to spread-eagleize over this topic, and yet it would be to invite censure if one failed to present a few salient facts to assist in the comprehension of what America really is, which may serve also as a basis to conceive what she may yet become.

It is to be remembered, when America severed her dependence upon Great Britain and instituted in this Western Hemisphere her hazardous experiment of founding a real republic in which the people themselves should be their own active rulers, that the newly born nation was so insignificant in the eyes of the world that England confidently expected His Majesty's trained regiments would sweep the ragged Provincial militia from their path like chaff before the tornado; while even the thoughtful on the Continent of Europe regarded the aspirations of Adams, and Franklin, and Jefferson as a futile dream. A cur-

rent expression of the time respecting the insecurity of the bond that united the American Colonies was to the effect that it was "a rope of sand." And there seems to have been some justification for this feeling, for the country was still in its infancy, and all of it that could be regarded as settled lay to the east of the Blue Ridge mountains. The tract for which our Revolutionary fathers contended, and which they sought to retain, was simply that narrow strip of coast line extending from Maine to Georgia, and which rarely at any point reached over a hundred miles inland. When the principal cities of the Colonial period are named this is instantly apparent. Those cities, beginning at the northeast, are Portland, Salem, Boston, Providence, Newport, New Haven, Hartford, New York, Albany, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Annapolis, Baltimore, Charleston, Mobile and Savannah. Washington and New Orleans are not in the list, for as yet there was no Washington; and

as for New Orleans it was still a foreign possession belonging to Spain which owned it till it went to France in 1800. As one sees by noting their position every one of these principal Colonial towns was situated on the Atlantic seaboard, and either close to the ocean or, as with Albany, up some navigable stream, where it could be easily reached by sea going vessels. This was a necessity of the time, for transportation by water was the only kind that could be carried on to any considerable extent, and it was also by far the most economical. As yet good roads were conspicuous chiefly by their absence, and the region past the mountains had no lines of communication other than the rivers, or the old Indian trails, and to follow either exposed the adventurer to attack by hostile savages. The roster of the battle fields of the Revolution tells much the same tale, for they all lie on that narrow strip of coast line. The principal engagements of that war were Lexington, Bunk-

er Hill, Bennington, Saratoga, Long Island, Trenton, Morristown, Germantown, the Cowpens and Yorktown. Not one of them was beyond the low lying terrain to the east of the Appalachians.

It is to be noted further that the principal American towns at the Revolutionary period were still in the stage of infancy, and not one of them was great enough to stir any sense of apprehension in the breast of the British statesmen, as forecasting any serious revolt against the crown. Albany at that time had a population of 9,000. Boston numbered 15,000, Philadelphia 20,000, and New York, the metropolis, had less than 22,000. The great rush to the cities had not yet begun. The main body of Americans were still upon the farm, and scattered widely over all the area which had been opened up for settlement. Small holdings were yet the rule, for the new settlers for the most part were in no condition financially to purchase large tracts, or to culti-

vate them. Many of the settlers were tenants of the few landed proprietors, or were among his employees. Consequently the chief industry of the Colonies was that of agriculture. For other pursuits we find some employed in lumbering, in ship-building, in deep sea fishing and sailing the seas to catch whales, or to carry on trade with the ports of England, France or the West Indies. Manufacturing at the date of the Revolution had only a feeble start, for the Mother Country by every art and device had sought to keep America as a producer of raw materials, with the double object of obtaining these raw materials at the least cost to herself, and to insure that these raw materials should be manufactured in her own mills, and then reshipped to the Colonies to be disposed of at good profit to herself. Nevertheless, in spite of all laws and of vexatious commercial restrictions, America had begun to do some manufacturing, though in a small way. Iron was smelted

from native ores both in New York and in Pennsylvania, and was wrought into tools and various practical forms. Hides were tanned, some glass was produced, rum was distilled in New England from molasses which was imported from the West Indies, and a few modest woolen mills were set up along convenient water courses, to be run by water power, and in which wool was carded, spun and woven into cloth. But when it came to articles of luxury, to fine furniture, fine crockery ware, fine jewelry and fine dress goods our fathers and mothers were dependent on the merchants of Europe. Even the brick which was used in building some of the more pretentious Colonial mansions was brought by ship from England or Holland. For some of the older families had become comparatively wealthy from the products of their extensive plantations, from whaling ventures, or from trade with China or the West Indies, and so were able to afford to erect

homes that were stately, commodious and beautiful.

But the main body of the people were less fortunate and were compelled to struggle for a livelihood. Generally all the way from Maine to Georgia they were housed in cabins built of logs, and they followed strictly what we have called the "simple life," but without thinking of giving it a name. These early homes, the kind that were common when Gage was Governor of Massachusetts, and Boston organized her famous tea party, were primitive enough. As stated, they were built of logs, and on a site which was overgrown with the virgin forest. After the settler had obtained his tract of land, from ten or twenty to one hundred and sixty acres, he began operations by clearing a space for his buildings, and an acre or two besides, for raising a crop on which the family could subsist. The clearing of the land involved enormous labor. First of all came the felling of the trees and

the house building. Merely to bring down the towering monarchs of the forest which had been growing from time immemorial was a heart breaking task. The settler had none of our modern labor saving contrivances, and each tree had to be assailed by the all-around implement, the ax of the frontiersman. When a fair opening had been gained, logs were selected that were large enough, and yet not over large, and these were cut to the required lengths, and the rest of the timber, the heavy trunk logs and the branches were rolled away and piled in great windrows and set on fire. The blaze from such great fires flaming by night lighted the whole country round till the waste was consumed.

The house-building itself was an interesting operation. For it the settler had the help of his nearest neighbors—any one was a neighbor who lived within the radius of one to five miles—and they helped each other, each expecting like help in return. In the vernacular

of the country this exchange of labor was "swapping jobs."

Making use of the ax, they notched the logs at the ends so that they would hold firmly when put in place, and then piled them one above another cob-house fashion till the desired height was reached, space having been left at proper intervals for windows and doors. Usually the inner face of the logs was squared roughly with the ax, the outer face was left with the bark on, and this bark as the years passed dropped off piece by piece. The cracks between the logs were stopped with mortar, or with clay taken from the nearest water course. Such log houses were built with a single room, or sometimes with two rooms with a gallery between, this open on both sides, and the entire structure was protected by a single roof which extended over all. This roof was made by a frame of poles, which was covered with slabs or shingles split from pine or spruce logs, which

were well adapted for easy cleavage. At one end of the house a large fireplace was built of stones and mortar, and the chimney was carried up on the outside. Sometimes fireplace and chimney were made of logs and sticks which were lined with clay, but where flat stones that would resist the action of fire could be obtained they were naturally preferred to the backing of wood. If the home boasted several children, the older of these slept in the loft, which they reached by climbing a ladder, for there was no room in these contracted dwellings for a staircase. Of course there were more pretentious habitations erected here and there on the frontier, for the man of substantial means who was beginning again in the wilderness might take along with him a large household, and numerous servants and artisans. Such a man would probably lay out an extensive demesne, consisting of his own residence, with the other buildings in close proximity. His own house might have ten

or a dozen rooms and might even have a second story. And the logs of which it was built might be squared on the four sides, which would materially improve its appearance. And the houses for his retainers, and the various storehouses and barns he would in all likelihood distribute on three sides of a rectangle, all of them facing the central inclosure. The entire plant would then be inclosed by a stockade of heavy logs set upright side by side, and the stockade would be fortified by a solid blockhouse of logs at each corner, for protection against hostile Indians.

But it is with the humbler homes of the common people that we have to do. These of course were simple in plan, and all their appointments were on a modest scale. The furnishings of the frontier cabins were constructed for service rather than beauty, and for the most part they were made on the premises by the head of the house himself. The kitchen, which was also the living room,

was heated by the open fire of wood, and the immense woodpile just outside the door was an object of interest to the boys of the establishment, who were charged with the responsibility of having a never failing supply of fuel ready for the extra demand.

The family cooking was largely done in the huge iron kettle, which hung by a crane in the great fireplace; but an excellent brand of bread was baked in a skillet, which was a heavy pan of iron, which stood on three tall legs, and which had a long handle. The cover of the skillet was also of heavy iron, and it had a high rim all around it. When the dough was ready for baking, it was put into the skillet, which was set over a pile of glowing coals on the hearthstone. The pan like cover of the skillet was then put in place, and it was heaped up with red hot coals, and the whole affair was left to itself till the bread was baked. Such bread was of superior quality and good enough for the queen's supper

of bread and honey. For cooking a partridge, or a wild turkey, or a joint of venison, there was a Dutch oven, which was set before the fire, and one of the duties of a younger child was to turn the roast from time to time, and baste it from the drippings that fell into the pan below.

But the baking for a large family, or for a special company, was managed in a capacious brick oven, which was stationed conveniently out of doors. A fire of wood was built on the oven itself and it was kept going till the brick interior was thoroughly and evenly heated. Then the fire was drawn, and the loaves of bread, or cake, or a dozen pies were inserted by help of a wooden shovel, which had a specially long handle. The cooking in an oven of this kind was accomplished very evenly and satisfactorily.

In such rude homes the domestic fowl had free run of the dooryard, and were sometimes impudent enough to attempt to share the com-

fort of the kitchen. To guard against such intrusion the lady of the house was protected by having the outside door built in halves, which were hung separately, so that the lower half could be closed while the upper half was open to admit light and air. The horses and cattle were sheltered in a rustic stable, which was also built of logs. With its other advantages such a stable was always certain to be well ventilated. Where a stable was not yet available, the animals gathered in the lee of a grain stack, or under an open shed, which was built with the closed side toward the direction from which the severest storms were likely to come.

The most of the family living came directly from the soil, in the way of corn, wheat, barley, and potatoes and other vegetables; or indirectly through barter with the cross roads store, where the settler or his wife swapped eggs, grain or pearl-ash for tea, sugar and other commodities. The pearl-ash was ob-

tained by leaching the ashes from the great ash piles, from the burnt timber.

Food was plain but abundant after the land had been cleared and planted. All about the home was the open forest which swarmed with game; with deer, rabbits, partridges and pigeons, and the rivers and ponds furnished fish for the catching. Corn meal mush served with milk or molasses constituted the staple breakfast, and often the same modest fare had to suffice for the family dinner and supper also. In the histories of George Washington, mention is frequently made of his enjoying on his visits to the Northern States his supper of "hasty pudding and milk." The "hasty pudding" was the high toned title of the more plebeian corn mush, which the many ate because of Hobson's choice, that or nothing.

The father of the household, helped by his boys, felled the trees, split logs for fencing the fields, burnt out or dug out the stumps, picked stone and laid the stone walls, plowed

the ground, prepared the soil, planted and harvested the crops; and in winter when tillage was suspended there was plenty still to occupy mind and hand, for they "did the chores," worked at the woodpile, made the family shoes, which they wrought from the skin of the pet calf, which they had taken to the nearest tan yard to be turned into leather; and afterward they filled in what chinks were left in the day with carpentering, wagon building, and cabinet making to increase their stock of family furniture.

And the mother of the family, with her daughters about her, prepared the meals, milked the cows, churned the butter, fed the chickens and collected the eggs, made the family soap, spun and wove the flax for the family linen, spun and wove the blankets which would wear twice as long as the more flimsy articles which this generation has to buy, and spun and wove the "linsey-woolsey," the cloth which they then cut and sewed into substantial

clothing, which was admirably adapted for common wear.

All these interminable pursuits contributed toward making a busy life, and yet taken all in all it was a wholesome and happy life. Work and work again, with slight margin for recreation, was the common lot, and the most of the three millions of people—which was the population of the Colonies at the date of the Revolution—were happy to work, and gloried in their ability to do, and in their skill to turn their hands to anything that might be required. Industry and thrift were prevailing traits that were commended by all classes of the community, which despised in its soul and conduct that savored of idleness or profligacy. They tolerated no drones in that social hive. And as a direct consequence of their regularity of life, and of their freedom from the vicious indulgences which were so rife in the Mother Country, those men and women of the Western World made a fair and even a

prosperous living, and developed strong and sturdy constitutions. A most striking tribute to the purity of their life appears in the fact that by the time of the Revolution the average duration of life among the settlers of New England was double that of England or France.

True enough, as compared with the established nations of Europe, these Colonists were weak and poor; weak and poor as regards articles of luxury, or as regards leisure for their enjoyment; but on the other hand they were rich and strong in their valiant determination to make their way in the world, and to achieve a future on whose successful outcome they had perfect confidence.

It is quite another picture which spreads before our eyes today when we survey the American nation, and the territory which it has subdued and made its own. From the pitiful three millions of population as reckoned by Adams and Patrick Henry, we have

expanded to the vast proportions of a hundred million. We have leaped over the mountain barriers that hemmed them in on the westward, and we have spread abroad over the immense watershed of the Mississippi valley. We have traversed and occupied the plains and preempted the arable lands past the Rockies down to the ever beating surges of the Pacific. Still not content with the lands that were arable naturally, we have instituted vast reclamation projects, and by detaining the waters at their sources, or by deflecting the flow of great rivers, we are transforming the alkali desert into a paradise. From being weak and despised we have become resourceful and mighty, so that every nation is eager to merit and retain our friendship. Poor as we once were, we are now rated as the wealthiest nation on the globe. Our present possessions are valued at two hundred billions of dollars, a sum so vast that we do not comprehend it. At this time we

are four times as rich as France; eight times as rich as was Austria before she began burning up her resources in this miserable war, and ten times as rich as Italy. And this wealth of ours is rolling in upon us like a flood, for it is piling up at the amazing rate of five billion dollars a year. And when we pause to consider this we are lost in amazement at the brevity of the time in which this wonderful growth has been consummated. It is today less than a century and a half, in fact only 140 years, since the Declaration of Independence. And accordingly we are to understand that all that this land has since become, with all its diversified industries, with all its breadth of cultivated lands, with all its thriving and influential cities, with all its culture, refinement and civilization, was bound up and contained in the lusty young nation that first saw the light in 1776, only 140 years ago: was hidden away in those six hundred thousand American homes of toil and privation, just as

the germ is hidden away in the acorn; small and apparently insignificant, but which in due time expands to become the towering king of the forest.

In the face of this brief statement of this miracle of American growth and power it is pertinent to inquire into its causes; into the reasons which will explain how it was possible for it all to come to pass; how it happens that such expansion has come to America particularly, and not to some one of the more prominent nations of Europe, which were great before America was heard of. Why was it that such growth was not vouchsafed to Mexico or to Peru, both of which lie in the same Western World, and both of which enjoy many of the natural resources to which so many writers of note ascribe the chief credit for the development of American greatness? Mexico was conquered by Hernando Cortez in 1520, a full hundred years before the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and Peru was under

the heel of Pizarro only fifteen years after the fall of Mexico. Both of these lands at the time of their conquest were overflowing with riches. Both owned productive mines of gold and silver, to say nothing of the immense treasures wrested from Montezuma, and from the temples and palaces of the Incas. Mexico and Peru both have fertile lands, and a diversified climate, and are as capable of producing breadstuffs and other products in almost fabulous profusion as any of our American commonwealths. And yet how striking the difference! We survey these two countries today, with all their advantage of a century of time over the Colony of Plymouth; but for all that, in almost every line of real development, they are out of sight behind America. Who will expound the secret of America's surprising gain and advancement over Mexico and Peru? Evidently America's prosperity cannnot be attributed merely to the felicities of her climate, nor to the extent of

her forests, nor to the product of her mines, in all of which she is easily paralleled by Mexico and Peru. Somewhere there has been a powerful influence in her favor, and the wise will look for the secret of America's success in the superior texture of the American character, and in the peculiar traits in their rare combination, which give force and virility and the right inclination to our American manhood. It is manhood after all, the inherent nobility of the soul, and not extraneous circumstances and conditions, which count in the great struggle. Spurious manhood encounters trials and succumbs before them. Real manhood meets the same obstacles, tramples them under foot, and gains added courage and power by the very struggle and the joy of conquest.

II

MOULDING THE AMERICAN TYPE

OWING to many potent influences prevailing in this fair land of ours, which combined together from the day of its earliest settlement to produce the ultimate result, it would seem as if America had been providentially adapted to create and foster a new and noble type of manhood.

A prominent characteristic of our first colonists, and particularly of those who made their settlement in New England, is that they were Englishmen, and of that stripe of Englishmen in whom determination of soul, linked with an indomitable spirit of adventure was a second nature. They had braved persecution in England, owing to their resolve to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, and when the persecution became unendurable they fled from the home of their birth to the

freer atmosphere of Holland. And when the chance offered to establish their own colony in a new land across the sea, where their children could be trained in the use of their own language, and where they might erect a new England, which would cherish the best of their old life, with freedom from its hampering restrictions, they gladly sailed away to the west, although they knew well that they were facing every possible privation and misfortune. It was a picked company, thinned out by tribulation, so that it included only those choice souls who knew no fear, and whom no trials however great they might be could disconcert or discourage. Such men as those of the Mayflower, Carver and Standish and Bradford, and the rest, were a fitting ancestry from whose loins was to spring a dauntless and a magnanimous posterity.

An influence which tended to confirm the direction of the new colony toward a noble development is found in America's isolation

from the Old World, and her consequent emancipation immediately and continuously from the fetters, which through the ages had held the masses of the people abroad in social and political servitude. The remnants of feudalism that lingered among all the nations of Europe, and which affected every class of the population, from the palace of the nobility to the cot of the serf, produced a degree of abasement which it is difficult for the freeman to realize, though now we perceive how some of those same feudal conditions holding over in Central Europe to this very day have shown themselves responsible for launching this lamentable war. At the close of the seventeenth century all over Europe the monarch ruled his people by right divine, and each rank of his nobility ruled the rest below themselves, each taking to himself something of the royal prerogative. The ruling class held a monopoly of thinking, and denied this right to the people, who were made to bear the burdens, while

their betters were reveling in ease and luxury. The nobles constituted a separate and distinct class, into which the tradesman or the peasant might not penetrate by marriage or otherwise. The noble was born to command, and the common man was born to submit, and not to attempt to rise above the rank in which he had been placed by the divine mandate. The Revolution in France brought about some amelioration of conditions for Frenchmen, and the fall of the Stuarts in England reduced in some degree the arrogance of the British aristocracy, and yet for all that enough of the old traditions lingered on, entrenched in traditions of the courts and in daily custom, and thus was binding the hands of the man of low degree and hampering his ambition. Altogether the social condition of Europe operated in a manner to rob the man at the foot of the ladder of the power to think and plan for himself, and deprived him even of the inclination to initiate activities.

But here in America the old feudalism was given no foothold from the outset. The wide stretches of the Atlantic, with its slow going sailing vessels, cut off the New World from the mischievous practices and ideas that ruled in society over the waters. To make the voyage from Portsmouth to Plymouth or Boston and back to England consumed from two to three months at the least. That long journey across the ocean was a protection to American liberties which the old ways could not remove. And so the force of the old social restrictions was lost, and in this new land there grew up a new style of living, in which all factitious distinctions of birth and rank were discarded, and each man met his neighbor on the common plane of equal right and privilege. England might still commission her Royal Governors for the Colonies and send them here, backed with the force of the courts and the army, but in their several towns the people legislated respecting their local affairs in open

town meeting, elected their local officers by popular vote, and attended to their local concerns without let or hindrance from anybody. And the same towns elected their deputies to represent them in the Colonial assemblies. These assemblies levied taxes, which they presently collected. They claimed for themselves the same right, after the fashion of the English Commons, to originate tax bills, which claim of course involved the cognate right to refuse to vote an obnoxious impost. The trouble which arose over the taxing of tea was not so much the amount of the tax, which was comparatively trivial; but the fact that it was forced upon them in violation of their right of free debate and free decision. "Taxation without representation," was to them an infringement upon their liberties, which no mandate of the crown, and no cajoleries of British statesmen could compel them to endorse.

Another influence which reacted upon the

development of American manhood was the American idea of freedom respecting religious debate. The Old World knew little of liberty in religious opinion. Holland had been free in thought from the time she cast off the yoke of Spain and accepted William of Orange as Stadtholder, but England had not tolerated any differences from her worship as by law established, and as directed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Now in theory the church of the Pilgrims upheld perfect freedom of conscience, for it was to maintain that principle that they had sailed their frail bark across the Atlantic. It must be admitted however that some of the leading divines, and some of the ruling elders, of Boston and Salem were disposed to lord it over God's heritage with an iron hand. The sending of Roger Williams forth into the forest and swamps in the dead of winter is evidence of their lack of toleration when it came to the concrete application. Nevertheless, because their theory

of religious toleration was sound, even if their practice was defective, there was much discussion upon religious topics, and in fact far more than was possible at the same period in England. And when once men get it into their consciousness that there should be freedom in religious thought, and that it is the right of the individual soul to express its religious conviction, there is but a short step to making the like claim as to freedom of discussion in political concerns. And so throughout the Colonies the spirit of soul liberty and liberty of mind became fixed in the hearts of the people, and an atmosphere was produced in which the souls of men could breathe freely and develop in a normal way.

Still another influence which tended powerfully toward the development of American manhood was what may be termed the New England instinct for popular education. The Pilgrims, and the Puritans who followed them were penetrated by a powerful conviction that

the people were better qualified for self-government when trained and cultured, than when they were immersed in the darkness of ignorance. And accordingly they planned for the education of their own children, and of all the children in the community. As early as 1636, only sixteen years after the landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts, voted a levy of £400, for the foundation of a University at Cambridge, which afterward became Harvard College. The sacrifice which this entailed can only be understood when we remember that this sum was equal to the annual levy on the entire Colony of Masachusetts at that date. In 1642 the General Court empowered the selectmen of every town to see that the children could read, and understand the principles of religion, and the principal statutes of the Colony, and that they be set to some useful work. In 1647 the same authority required every town of fifty householders to establish a school, the master of which was to

be paid by the parents, or by public taxation, as the town committee might decide, and every town of one hundred householders to establish a grammar school for preparing pupils for the University at Cambridge. Provisions for popular education such as these, which we recognize as being almost two centuries in advance of their era, proclaim the wisdom and farsighted judgment of these New England statesmen.

Coupled with the other factors which have been mentioned, which united in framing the American character, and possibly to be estimated as the most effective of them all, may be mentioned the educative force of adversity, and the struggle to overcome the disadvantages of their situation. In this new land every settler who established his home in a new region was at once thrown upon his own resources, and every day disclosed some new problem which called for all the ingenuity which he possessed. It has already been seen

how at the start he had to hew out for himself standing room in the forest, and we may well imagine the urgency of the contest, when he had to wring from nature her products to meet his needs in the way of shelter, food and clothing, the bare necessities of life. But there was still the further struggle with the relentless aborigines, whose war-whoop might ring in his ears at any moment by night or day. Whatever might have been his former mode of life, a teacher, a lawyer, or squire of the manor, in this New World he had to wield the ax, the hoe and the mattock; he was forced to be his own stone mason, his own shoemaker, and sometimes as a blacksmith he had to shoe his horse or oxen. Beyond that he had to be his own sentinel and soldier. When he was plowing his field his trusty musket must lie close at hand, loaded and primed for instant action, and when he assembled his household on the Sabbath Day to walk to the House of God, it was with his Bible under

his arm and his gun on his shoulder. Every day brought some new demand for which new expedients must be devised, and some novel emergency in which it was imperative for him to act with instant and competent judgment. All this was a training school for manhood, one in which constant practice was offered in efficiency, and which paid its own reward at sight. Some of those fathers of ours, when the Colonies had become well established, enjoyed the privilege of attending college at Yale, or Harvard, or Amherst; but the greater number were graduated from the University of Hard Knocks, and it is to be believed when they had taken their extended courses in its several departments that they acquired a remarkably diversified skill of hand and mind. The boys of that age were students of practical agriculture, and had a smattering of half a dozen trades, which they had learned at home with their father as head of the department. And in a sense it was a competitive ex-

ercise, for the lad who could best handle the ax or the plane, or turn out a pound of finished horseshoe nails in the shortest time was the hero of the neighborhood. And so those young fellows passed up their subjects in these courses with a thoroughness which no subsequent experiences could efface.

And the girls under the eye of their mothers had instruction both theoretical and practical in Domestic Arts. They learned to brew and to bake, to spin, to sew, to patch and quilt bed coverlets, and to do skilfully the thousand and one duties, which fitted them to manage their own households, when the right young man extended the marital invitation.

At the outbreak of the war for Independence, this process of sharpening the wits of Americans had been in progress a century and a half. But the Revolution had a disciplinary effect of its own, for it welded the hearts of the people together, it taught them still deeper lessons of self-control and self-reliance, and

also that extremely important lesson of self-sacrifice for their native land.

And in the years that followed the Revolution, as the tide of immigration flowed through the eastern gateways of the Republic, and spread out over the prairies and mountains of the west, the same educational processes were continued and repeated, until the whole nation stood forth as an illustrious example of a cultural experiment, the most extensive and the most successful of any in the world that has occurred from the dawn of history to the present hour.

Under conditions such as have been described America begat a new strain of manhood, Caucasian of course, for the half-breeds are so few that they are to be neglected in the total computation; composite, with blood currents derived from English, Scotch, Irish, Dutch, German, French and other ancestry and combining strangely enough the higher and nobler traits of all these diverse national-

ities.

This new type of manhood, evolved after this manner, is distinctly and distinctively American. It differs in a noticeable degree from the numerous types which Europe furnishes us so familiarly. We have but to mention these to have them stand out conspicuously in our mental conception.

The Swedes and Norwegians of the Scandinavian peninsula are tall and solid in frame, blond in complexion, and with tawny hair and often with eyes of gray or blue.

The Scot is large of frame, and with the framework well in evidence; of a rugged and serious cast of countenance, and with a disposition that takes firm hold of an opinion or of a friend.

The Russian is long and heavy, patient as an ox, moderate in movement, and stolid in argument or action.

The Latin races of Southern Europe are semi-tropical in temperament, smaller in stat-

ure than the races that have been mentioned; lithe, active, and prone to talk with eyes, hands and shoulders almost as much as with the tongue.

When it comes to the more prominent nations, the caricaturists have worked out a set of characteristic national traits, which are somewhat exaggerated, but which in the main seem to fit sufficiently to merit general acceptance.

Thus they will picture Hans, the German, with a solid avoirdupois, a countenance that exhibits straightforward determination, and a general mien that consorts well with music, sausages and pretzels and a bier-garten.

They picture Johnny Crapaud, the Frenchman, as medium in height, slim in figure, active in movement, with an alert expression in his eye, and a dapper taste in attire that borders on the fantastic.

But their treatment of John Bull, the Englishman, sets him forth as the most stalwart

of all; broad in the beam like one of his own ale casks, beefy and heavy, and with a set shutting of his jaws, like the snap of a bull dog, which seems to announce that he will have every right that is his, or he will know the reason why.

Now merely in his physical conformation the American cannot be mistaken for any of the types so far described. Individual Americans here and there may resemble types from other lands, or attempt to resemble them. But our real Americans are very easily distinguished by their figure and their bearing. You may start half a dozen Americans abroad to make the grand tour, and they will be instantly taken for Americans, whether it be in Paris or Constantinople.

There is now hardly any question among us as to who was the greatest of all Americans, the noblest soul, the most representative of what Americans are that our soil has produced. Touching this Americans are all of

one mind, and that will be to say that that great soul was Abraham Lincoln. He it is who has embodied the elemental shrewdness, the power, the adaptability, the courage, the rigid patriotism and the truthfulness of the American character. And the caricaturists have well hit off this American type, and it is to be remembered that they had created the representation before Abraham Lincoln came upon the scene, in their portraiture of our Uncle Samuel. They depict him as tall, slab-sided, angular, with features well accentuated, a piercing eye, and a general expression of confidence, which seems to say to all beholders that he was not born yesterday, that he has cut his eye teeth, and that he stands ready to extract the eyeteeth of all creation and to do the trick so handily that they wont catch on to what he is up to.

And this American type prevails with slight modifications throughout the nation. Everywhere we are one people in all prominent

traits, in bodily traits, and in mental and moral traits.

If for a season a half century back we had some little family differences, we cleaned them up at the time once for all, and even the remembrance of them has been almost obliterated by the many problems since that we have had to work out together, and by the many interests which we now hold in common.

That we possess a common language is a fact so simple and so natural to us that we forget that as the world goes it is phenomenal. Nowhere else is the benefit of an absolutely common speech enjoyed to a similar extent. Italy, France and Germany, all have their regional dialects, which in some cases are so diverse as to constitute almost separate tongues. In England an Essex man of the soil can hardly conduct a sustained conversation with a common man from Devon or Northumberland. But here in America, with

all our hundred millions of population, we can travel the length and breadth of the land, and omitting the settlements in which the newly arrived immigrants congregate, our one language will give one perfect understanding everywhere.

Once the Yankee was esteemed as the peculiar product of New England, but presently New York claimed the right to whistle Yankee Doodle, and then Ohio, and then all the country down to a certain famous line that cut to the westward along the southern border of Pennsylvania. But later we had some matters to discuss with Cuba, and we sent a debating team over there, and in the controversy that ensued the men from Maine stood shoulder to shoulder with the men from Alabama; and since that occasion we all claim to be Yankees, clean down to the Rio Grande, not omitting Florida or Texas. All the way we stand before the world with a common language, with common aspirations and ideals;

one nation, forever united, under one flag which we all venerate and love; Americans all of us, from sea to sea, and from the gelid waters of the Great Lakes to the tropical flow of the Gulf of Mexico.

An important concern which is associated with the thought of manhood in its American type, and in addition to the tenacity with which the type persists, is that we are regularly remoulding the descendants of other races into conformity with our type. This is a very remarkable point in ethnology, this modeling and remodeling of racial types and characteristics.

We are a clearly outstanding example of such transformation in the case of our adopted citizens of German descent. A German immigrant brings his bride to this country, and after they have passed the inspection at Ellis island, they push on to make their home somewhere between the Atlantic and the Rocky Mountains. He is German to the core, and

his Gretchen is also. He may set up his housekeeping in some one of our great cities, in close touch with the German colony, where he may keep on talking German in the home and also among his business associates. He may have all his dealings with Germans and so remain German to the end of the chapter. But his children will be less German than he, and his grandchildren still less. By the third generation the distinctively German type will have become modified, and even the features of this set of his offspring will have altered from the extreme German cast and have assimilated much of the American type. And this will occur even if there has been no intermarriage with the strain that hails from Plymouth Rock. Attribute this alteration in physical characteristics to whatever factor you may please, to climatic conditions, to the novel environment of the New World, to the subtle influence attending the intercourse with American children on the playground and in

the class room, or to anything else that the active imagination can conceive; all the same the change occurs, a change in facial expression, a change in the conformation of the head, and even a change in the shape of the mouth and of the organs of speech.

Possibly we Americans do not make allowance for the difficulty to the out and out German, who has never tried any language but his own, to acquire some of the sounds which we utter with the ease of established usage. Our vocal organs are conformed to make these sounds, and his are conformed to make sounds which we find it difficult to utter. Some years back I labored diligently with a German friend in New York city several times by the half hour in the attempt to have him speak our diphthong "th" in its thin sound, but always in vain. I showed him how to place the tip of his tongue between his teeth and to say, "th," "th," "th"; thing," "thought," "thistle"; but though he struggled valiantly,

the very best he could achieve was to say, "ding," "dthought," "dthistle." And a miserable mess he made of it when he informed me of the ages of himself and wife, which happened to be thirty-two and thirty; for he announced without so much as cracking a smile that she was "dirty" and he was "dirty-two." But his two charming granddaughters had no such linguistic tribulations. There was no impediment in their speech. They had taken on the American type in appearance, in address, and in vocal expression they were like ourselves. Were one to meet them on the Avenue or in the Park he would never have imagined from any peculiarity of feature, or from any word dropped in the course of the conversation that they were aught else than to the manner born.

Sometimes it must be admitted that our adopted citizens will betray their origin by their names, when there is nothing else apparent which would give them away. Only last

Spring I experienced quite a surprise. A gentleman came into my office on business for which he had been commissioned by a prominent firm in New York. When the matter was concluded we had leisure for a pleasant chat. He had been graduated from a leading University, from Cornell in fact, and so we were on common ground as college men; and besides he had met several of my particular friends as he traveled about the state, which placed us on quite familiar terms. Up to the moment of his going away he had borne himself as an American, and his sympathies were dovetailed closely with my own. So when he passed me his card, and I read the inscription, "Gustav Finklestein," one might almost have pushed me over with a feather. Of course it was not "Finklestein" exactly, for it would not be fair to identify him too exactly, but it had a twang that would match well with that. And then it all came out. His father came over here from Prussia. He was born

here, had been trained in the public schools, had taken his university course, and was transformed into an American in everything but the name.

But names are not always to be trusted at their face value, for I have known of Greeks, of Germans, or Hungarians to become good Americans by the simple process of applying to the courts and obtaining from the judge a decree that enabled them to dispense with the Constanopulos, or the Finklestein, or the Kazinczy, and they have come forth from the seat of justice to be known henceforth as plain John Smith, or George Brown, or John Robinson. For this reason names are not certainly to be depended on.

And some of our Italian immigrants are melting into the American type very graciously, and with a little shrewd help on our part they would assimilate more easily and to mutual advantage.

Not long since I happened to be in a well

known city of Connecticut, and finding that I had lost a button I stepped into a tailor shop to have it replaced. The shop opened directly upon the street, and the proprietor, who was a son of Italy had his living apartments behind the shop. While waiting for him to complete the task in which he was engaged, we began to chat about his old home, his reasons for leaving it, and the better chances offered him in this land, over what he had in the old country. While we were thus occupied his little son, a lad of six years or so, came in attired in his Sunday best. I gave attention to the little chap, who was evidently the pride of his father's heart. He was just home from practicing his "piece" which he was to recite at the concert to be given the next Sunday night at the Congregational Church. I asked him to recite it for me, and when he nodded assent I lifted him to the table, and he went through his four or five stanzas without a break. The family was Roman

Catholic. But that boy was being trained in a Protestant Sunday School, and there he had learned to say those verses about the American flag, which he was to wave on the platform as an American boy. And the father was delighted to have him trained in that Sunday School and to see him growing up as an American boy; one more American of the Americans.

Observing how rapidly and completely such transformations can occur, I am wondering if it is not a part of the great role for which Divine providence has created this fair land, to have it engaged in just such an enterprise as this; to provide here a refuge and a home in which the oppressed and neglected of other lands may meet a welcome, and where they and their offspring along with ours may labor and develop powers now dormant, but which may become brilliant and influential for the improvement of our own institutions, and the uplift of mankind.

III

AMERICAN TRAITS AND CHARACTERISTICS

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WHEN one approaches a review of the characteristic traits of the American man, it is not necessary to urge that he holds them in exclusive possession, for possibly every one of these traits may be found among the best men of any one of the leading nationalities of the time. Nobility of spirit, the essence of true gentility, cannot be restricted to any clime, or to any age. There were cultivated gentlemen in ancient Rome, and in Athens, and such are to be met in every modern capital. But what may be claimed and supported without successful contradiction is, that the happy combination of all these magnanimous traits, which runs throughout the mass of the people, is to be found in the average American, and that in him their expression rises to the most eminent degree.

A striking characteristic of the American,

and one which is most likely to be noticed by a stranger, is that he is wide awake and alert to every circumstance, wherever he happens to be, and whatever is his occupation. "Catch a weasel asleep," is a familiar colloquialism which has force in respect to the habitual vigilance of our American. Turn attention upon one of our compatriots at any time, and when what is going on may seem to be none of his concern, and though he may look as if his whole mind were focussed on his own affairs, nevertheless if the business be traced to its conclusion it will appear that he has seen measured it all through from A. to Z. In the pursuit of his own interests he can be gazing straight ahead, and yet be capable of watching all the time out of the tail of his eye for anything that may affect himself or his future. Something of the success of the American business man in competition with builders and contractors of other lands is to be credited to his everlasting watchfulness,

which insures him against being taken at a disadvantage. In the commercial struggle, even when some plan of his miscarries, his rivals will be wise not to count him as down and out prematurely, for in all likelihood he has several plans up his sleeve, which will be produced in due season. As he scans the array of opportunities before him, he is never content with making provision for the obvious —anyone can do that—but he cultivates the habit of weighing all possible chances and mischances, and of seeing to it that he is ready for any event, no matter how improbable for the moment its occurrence may seem.

How is the superior alertness of the American to be accounted for? It is a phenomenon of long standing, and as a trait it is widely distributed, so widely indeed as to warrant the conclusion that it is due to some powerful influence in our early history.

Now the biologists are accustomed to attribute changes and modifications in the struc-

ture of plants and animals to the effects of heredity. According to them we inherit dominant traits and tendencies from our parents, and any special trait or tendency that environment or use has particularly accentuated in the parents goes over to the offspring with cumulative force.

It is after this fashion that they account for the deterioration of the *appendix vermiformis,* that relic of a vast antiquity, of which we hear so much lately in connection with hospitals and operations. The biologists advise us that this despicable little mischief maker, in the long, long ago, when our remote ancestors were less sophisticated than we, was very useful and was a much more prominent organ; but when man altered his diet, and adopted food of a more concentrated form, the organ which is now only an appendix became less and less; and the less it was used the more it shriveled, till it dwindled down to its present diminutive and despised proportions.

And in similar manner that class of biologists who affirm that the human race has the monkey for its first cousin, contend that man once had a tail like his cousin, but that he lost it through the course of the ages by the slow process of wearing it away as he came to adopt a sitting posture. Personally, however, I am not so cock sure about all this, for what seems to me a fairly sound reason according to the principles of the biologists themselves. For we happen to know one creature that makes a practice of sitting on his tail—the kangaroo—and we know that the more that he uses it as a substitute for a camp-stool, not only is it not worn away, but quite to the contrary it becomes more reliable and efficient, and is in fact his chief means of support. Indeed whenever Mr. Kangaroo adopts the sitting posture we have to cease speaking of him as sitting *down,* for in every such instance that has come to my observation he was certainly sitting up, and a long way up at that.

And I must confess a further disagreement with this section of the biologists, because so far as I am able to perceive, it would have been far simpler for the monkey to have grown his own tail, than for humanity to have lost such an anatomical continuation, supposing that originally it was provided therewith. For on the theory that use leads to development, it would seem that the creature that owned a tail and employed it in the customary way, would have had it extended and elongated, rather than abbreviated or obliterated. For when such a creature in his ancestral wilds flopped that convenient substitute for a hand over a contiguous branch, and complacently took his swing head downward after the manner of his kind, it is evident that every such gymnastic exercise, according to recognized evolutionary principles, would impel retention and development of the tail.

And yet at this point we are confronted with another difficulty, which apparently

thrusts an insurmountable stumbling-block in the way of conceiving the monkey to be man's degenerate relative, and of his ever having gotten a caudal appendage at all, if the hypothesis be assumed that he began existence in lack of one. For the biologist's theory rests upon the postulate that the tail grows and develops from the act of throwing it over a limb, and extending it by the weight of the animal thus held in suspense. But it may be inquired how that primitive monkey, who began his existence without a tail was able to get a tail over the limb on that crucial occasion: and further if he had none to get over the first time, where did he succeed in acquiring one to get it over at any time? The subject apparently is very obscure and mysterious, and perhaps it had better be left to the biologists to solve it at their convenience.

But as to the main principle of traits and tendencies in the ancestor becoming fixed by use, so that they are passed over and confirmed

in his posterity, it may be regarded as sound and true, and we may continue to employ it as a working hypothesis. And as such it may be applied directly as accounting for the trait of alertness in the American man. Our fathers as is well known to everyone were in constant exposure to privations and perils. Some of them were mariners, fishermen coasting off the banks of Newfoundland, or whalers sailing around Cape Horn and chasing the monsters of the deep over the vast Pacific Ocean. In such pursuits they were beset by angry billows, and were often the sport of terrible tempests, when their frail barks were tossed like chips in the waste of waters. For their very lives it was imperative for them to know that every plank of their vessel was sound and fast, that every seam was pitched and caulked so as to be able to shut out the sea, no matter how much the ship might toss and strain, and that every line in the running rigging was free from bight or snarl, so as never to catch in a

block when the ship was going about, or when it was smitten by a sudden squall.

Those of our forefathers who dwelt on the land had to watch the skies for signs that foretold a change of weather, and to guard their growing crops from every stray beast that might trample or devour them; and when they were passing through the forest, following along the old Indian trails, they had to see to it that no withered branch overhead should fall and crush them to the earth; and more than all they had to be vigilant against the leap of the prowling wolf, or of the stealthy lynx, and against the still more crafty approach of the merciless savage. Their isolation in the wilderness forced them to train every sense to the acutest strain, for it was only their readiness to meet and cope with every danger, from any and every quarter, which could insure their own safety and the lives of all that they held dear.

And even after the wilderness had been

subdued in some measure, and the settler or farmer had taken a house in town in order to take up the occupation of trader or banker, he still had need to cultivate the same trait of constant vigilance in the care and extension of his business relations; and so the cultivation of alertness went on from generation.

As a result our American is quick to see all sides of any situation; quick to reach a conclusion, which will be no less prudent because he has not been fumbling for weeks over a decision that he was able to make in three minutes; and quick to act, when it is time to act. In the early day the frontiersman won out against the Indian, because he could adopt and improve on the red man's strategy; and because he could shoot and shoot straight, while the Indian was getting ready to shoot. And within our own day numberless instances are on record of officers of the law in the great west, who have been assailed by desperadoes and have come off victors, because they could

"pull a gun" quicker than the eye could follow, and pull the trigger with the weapon at the waist, or even in a coat pocket, firing through the garment, and apparently without taking aim and yet not missing their quarry.

The great American game of baseball owes its popularity to its requirement of immediate judgment and instant action. In the complex possibilities which it offers every man in the game must be as they say "on his tip toes," and he wins, whose mind and hand unite on the instant to do the right thing.

If in their games American boys are active, they are no less so in their studies. Of course there are stupid fellows everywhere, who hardly know enough to go in when it rains; but the average American boy is far from stupid, and he can work up a task in history or philosophy while most others would be collecting the material. For this statement confirmation comes from an unexpected source. It is a habit of mine when I am studying any

question to read the authorities on all sides, on those which support my views, and also on those that may oppose. Following this practice I read a book, which was written by a Roman Catholic Doctor of Divinity, the subject of which was the education of the youth in the communion of his church. The author was the Rev. John Talbot Smith, and the work he published was written for home consumption, and with little idea that it ever would stray outside his own fold. For this reason doubtless there were in the book complaints and admissions which it would have been something less than judicious to lay before the general public, especially if many of them were Protestants. Now it is commonly understood to be the settled policy of Rome in her schedules of education to internationalize her schools, particularly those of collegiate and of higher grade, and to have the hours of recitation and of recreation the same in them all, and the same studies offered, and

the same rate of progress required. Under the Roman system it is the plan to transfer teachers from school to school, and to enable this to be done at all, to transfer a teacher of languages from a school in Paris to a school in Vienna, or a teacher of philosophy from a school in London to a school in Washington, the arrangement of hours and of studies and even of text books must be as described. But Dr. Smith raises his voice against the rigor of this ironclad educational system, especially when it is applied to the curriculum of Catholic schools in America. And he grounds his protest on the postulate that the American boy, whether Irish-American, or of some other complicated American descent, is of keener perception, of more agile mind, than the German, the English or the Irish boy; and that he will resent the restrictions imposed by the system that prevails in the Catholic schools of Europe; and also because this Irish-American or French-American boy learns so much more

readily than the average boy in Europe, it is an imposition on him and on the Church to hold him back to the same rate of progress that has been set for the boy of more sluggish mind. All of which goes to establish the contention that alertness, the ability to observe quickly and to acquire quickly, and the power to pass swift and accurate judgments, is a conspicuous endowment of the American man.

A second characteristic of the American man is that he is eminently and habitually practical. He is everlastingly up and doing, and for the most part what he is doing is well worth while. We are justly regarded as the busiest people on the planet, and we transact more business in business hours than any other business men anywhere. We are experts in the doctrine of uses. It was some cute American who broached the pithy question, "What's the use of putting up with a useful thing that you can't use?" With precisely that thought in his sub-consciousness the busy American

wastes no time or energy over an implement or a machine that has outlived its usefulness. The instant that it is worn out, out it goes into the discard, and the better implement or machine takes its place.

The American prides himself on having the the best tools in the world; the best saws, the best chisels, the best shovels; all are the best that can be manufactured, and each one has a special form that is particularly adapted for the particular use to which it is to be put.

The ax-handle was a straight stick. It was not a handy contrivance for our American, for it lacked balance; and worse still, it was liable to slip through his hands when in service. So some bright chap—his name ought to be recorded in letters of gold on the scroll of fame far above some that have gotten there because of their skill in killing men by wholesale—some bright chap whittled out a hickory ax-helve with just the right curves, flattened a trifle on the sides so that it would

hold the head to a true stroke, and with a bulge at the end that enabled the workman to get a fast grip when dealing a heavy stroke; and ever since American ax-helves have been made on that model, and any woodsman who knows his trade wants just that pattern for his ax-helve and no other.

An Englishman invented the first stationary steam engine for the purpose of pumping water from the lower level of mines, and another Englishman built the first locomotive engine for travel by rail. But it was the American, Robert Fulton, who wondered why an engine could not be made to propel a boat, and behold, the Clermont stirring up the waters of the Hudson with her splashing paddles; and with her came the inauguration of steamship transportation by river and sea.

But are Americans so very practical? Have we no dreamers and idealists who can lead us away from a stolid material existence into the realm of the intellectual and the spiritual?

Surely with our vast population there must be some of our number who devote themselves to the cultivation of thought and seek to give it force and direction. And of a truth such we have; dreamers who dream, and seers who see visions; but with all their flights into the empyrean of fancy they are averse to getting their heads so far above the clouds that they cannot hold to solid facts. Poets we certainly have, brilliant poets; and preachers, eloquent and profound; and philosophers who can discourse learnedly and convincingly of the constitution of the universe and of the human soul; but there is this to be said of American poets, preachers and philosophers, that with all of their venturesome excursions into the realm of transcendental speculation they make sure that their thought shall be regulated and controlled by the gyroscope of reality.

Morse was a dreamer, and so was Cyrus Field; but their fancies gave the world the electric telegraph and the Atlantic cables.

Langley and the Wright brothers dreamed of soaring aloft into the skies along with the eagle and the albatross. Langley had the right theory, but he lacked the engine that could give his ship the momentum for a sustained flight, and when his well devised aircraft took a header into the Potomac the catastrophe broke his heart. The Wright brothers consumed sixteen years in their preliminary experiments with their glider, and then when they had mastered its secret they constructed an air-ship that was the pioneer of practical aviation. Graham Bell forced a wire to talk like a man, or a woman; and Edison toiled in his laboratory till he was able to "can" a speech, or a song, as the housewife "puts up" her cherries or peaches to be brought out when wanted at a later day.

In New York City the land became immensely valuable. In the down town district one might plaster a building lot all over with dollar bills, and still the owner would call for

more before he would exchange the land for the money. But there was plenty of room to be had overhead, and it was there for nothing more than the trouble of building up to it. But how to get there was the problem, for when you pile brick upon brick, and stone upon stone, you presently arrive at a point where the weight above will crush the lower courses. But some practical American conceived the notion that he could construct a skeleton frame of steel beams, and that he could make this sustain the weight of his brick or stone. So he ran up his steel skeleton, and filled in the spaces with a wall, and so he was able to extend his sky-scrapers up ten, or twenty, or sixty stories above the ground, till in the vast height of the structure it dwarfed the tallest church spires in the vicinity into insignificance. One such edifice on Broadway, the tallest in the country, holds a tenant population of ten thousand people, and its express elevators driven by electricity race up and down, rival-

ing the speed of express trains on terra firma.

A couple of years ago there was a bridge to be constructed over a deep gorge in Africa. In the regular order of events the contract would have gone to an English firm, but in this instance open bids were invited. The shortest time in which any of the contractors of Europe would engage to put up that bridge was a year and a half. An American firm presented a bid to draw all the plans and have the bridge in place in six months after the papers had been signed. The foreign builders scouted the proposition as preposterous and impossible. The contract was awarded to the American firm and the bridge was ready for traffic within the limit of specification.

It was an American, Mr. Frederic W. Taylor, who has worked out the science of industrial efficiency. Its most popular example comes from the art of laying brick. From the time of the Pharaohs workmen have been laying brick in about the same fashion, as one

may see by examination of the pictures painted on the walls of tombs in Egypt, where there are representations of all sorts of handicrafts in operation; and the masons have imagined that this old way was the best and the only way. But Mr. Taylor studied the motions of the bricklayers, the motions that were required to pick up a brick, to spread the mortar, and to set the brick where it was to stay, and he declared that about half of the motions that the bricklayers had the habit of making were useless and wasteful. When by his direction these useless motions were discarded it was seen that the same man could lay twice as many brick in a given time and with no more fatigue. The like principle is now being applied to many trades and handicrafts, with mutual advantage to the workman and to his employer.

At such practical things as these the American has been occupied for a couple of centuries, and he is likely to keep on making im-

provements in all directions where he is engaged, so long as his active mind continues to work freely, and his hand retains its practical skill.

A very amiable trait of our American man is that he is regularly and consistently good humored. In constitution he is a bundle of nerves, for he is sensitive to all that occurs about him; but he is not "nervous" in the sense that he must jump and fidget and rave at every petty annoyance. In a way he may be said to possess a philosophical turn of mind, for he has no notion that the universe has been specially greased so as to run smoothly for his particular convenience. He understands that mishaps and disappointments are bound to happen, and that not a few of them are to come about where he stands. He recognizes them as a necessary part of the scheme of living, and feels that they are to be faced and overcome, rather than that they be let to overcome him. And so he is not

"touchy" and quarrelsome; and though he will put up a good fight when he is forced to it, he never sets a chip on his shoulder, nor does he start out on the hunt for trouble till trouble comes hunting him. If some reverse befalls him for a moment, he will not concede that he has been downed. He seems to be made of whalebone and india rubber, for such is his elasticity of temperament that the harder he is flung to the ground, the swifter and higher his rebound. A business loss will not paralyze his ambition, for he pulls himself together and lets loose twice the energy that he displayed before. If he is on a journey, and his train has a hot box, and he is likely to lose a close connection and with it an important engagement, he does not scowl and swear, but makes the best of the situation and goes about trying to cheer up his fellow passengers. Under similar circumstances his English brother would be likely to be stalking about, and fuming and fretting, and vowing that he will sue

the company, or write a letter complaining of the vileness of the service and have it printed in the Times. But the American laughs at all this display of irritation, and as for himself he sets about utilizing his spare time in checking up his orders. In a situation that sets the Gaul to dancing in a frenzy of passion, the American is calm and collected, and while others may waste their vitality in curses and empty gesticulations, he is planning a way of escape from the predicament. Time and again in America we have suffered some great misfortune, a sweeping conflagration in a great city, or a frightful flood like those of Dayton and Galveston so recently; and time and again while the fires were still raging, or the mad waters were pouring through their business offices, our American merchants have been telegraphing contractors, and ordering material for new buildings, which were commenced the instant the wreckage was cleared away.

For this calm imperturbability of the

American temperament, no doubt the alertness of his mind is largely responsible; for he is prone to see the ridiculous in any event, if there is anything ridiculous to see. This fact finds expression in the saying that the American is gifted with a sense of humor. In fact America has created her own school of humor under the leadership of such artists of the quaint and ludicrous as Artemus Ward, Josh Billings, James Russell Lowell—it was he who created the Hosea Biglow, of the Hosea Biglow Papers—Mark Twain and Peter Dunne, and the host of funny men who write up the nonsense page in the magazines.

When a knot of American travelers get together in the smoking room of a Pullman car, or of an ocean liner, they will swap side-splitting narratives, during the rendition of which the speaker will maintain the gravity of a graven image, while the others are doubled up with laughter. As you listen you wonder where all the humorous incidents originate, but the

wonder ceases when you reflect that all the way from Maine to Texas there are men in every rank and station from whom drolleries and witticisms drop naturally, and in a profusion which would make the fortune of a professional jokesmith. Some years ago a book appeared in Central New York entitled David Harum. It described a genial horsetrader, whose trades and jests presently became widely current. But there was a real "David Harum," under another name, and he was overflowing with oddities and curious incidents, many of them quite as ludicrous, if not more so, than any that the book immortalized. I have personal acquaintance with some dry geniuses, who cannot speak ten sentences without setting free some comical quirk, which proves them to be true humorists, and they are but examples of thousands of others.

The commendable point of this side of the American man is that his nonsense is clean and pure, with no odor of the pit about it,

and no taint of cynicism or malevolence. He reports the comical in some comical happening, not for the sake of harming the person who happened to be betrayed into a ludicrous scrape, but simply to air the comicality itself.

American statesmen on the stump will clinch an argument with a humorous story, and the preachers at some great convention will enliven their dinner hour and clear the cobwebs from their brains by exchange of witty repartee and incident.

Mr. Lincoln, the great President, had this sense of humor charmingly developed, and in him it was really a saving element, for by help of it he had relief from the burdens of state. Often too it was his means of extricating himself from a perplexing pressure of importunity. For when some visitor insisted on his granting some request which he regarded inadvisable, or of approving some measure which might be detrimental to the army or to the country, he would relate some apt story,

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which would let the visitor down easy, and send him away with a smile, and possibly grateful in his heart, if his request had to be denied, that the act was accomplished so gracefully.

Fortunate it is for our American that he cultivates this sunny disposition, for it saves him much wear and tear of nervous tissue, and certainly it renders him far more genial and companioniable an associate in business or social life.

IV

AMERICAN TRAITS CONCLUDED

OUR man of the American type is courageous. In the face of calamity or peril he is habitually calm, and is buoyed up by a spirit of dauntless virility. This is his natural heritage and is what we should expect from him as a son of the men of enterprise and boundless audacity who laid the foundations of this Western Republic. There was a world of valor in that little band at Scrooby in England, who held fast to their worship of God in spite of all the threats of the archbishop and the throne, and who when England was too set in her bigotry of ecclesiasticism for them to endure it longer sailed away from Leyden to Massachusetts and imperishable glory.

And their sons displayed a like courage when at Lexington they braved the muskets

of the serried columns of the king's troops, and when at Philadelphia they voted the Declaration of Independence, and subscribed their names to that immortal document, when in so doing they could almost feel the tightening of the halter about their necks. It was a grim jest of one of their number, who was urging the necessity of the patriots being true to each other to the end, and condensed a whole speech into the striking phrase, "We must all hang together, if we don't wish to hang separately." That bold signature of John Hancock on the original draft of the Declaration stands out still as a challenge of defiance to Royal Governors to do their very worst.

It is in like fashion that the American braces himself to overcome difficulties and surmount obstacles. That inscription in Spencer's poem, as posted over the gate of Busirane,

"Be Bold, be bold, and evermore be bold,"

agrees well with his enterprising temper. With that ringing in his ear he could strike

out into our western wilderness, staking his all upon the success of his venture. He established new industries and pushed them forward to amazing success. He laid out a new railway over the whole stretch of this continent, in order to hold California fast to the Union in the Sixties, and he did this while he was engaged in the greatest war the world had known up to his day. And this enterprise was all the more remarkable at that time, for it was the first instance recorded in history of a great nation undertaking a work of continental magnitude, while its armies were engaged in a life and death struggle. Up to the Sixties, when any great nation sounded the war trumpet, it placed all its resources at the disposition of its generals, and every great economical improvement was halted till the era of peace was restored. But America pushed that Pacific Railway forward to completion with one hand, while she was saving the Union with the other. What then may

she not attempt in the way of magnificent enterprises, when she can undertake them with both hands free and untramelled?

Something of this adventurous spirit stands out unmistakably in the contruction of the Panama Canal, which France had prepared to dig, but which she was forced to abandon as beyond her powers. The tropical heat was too intense, the tropical rainfall too copious, the tropical jungle too dense, and the tropical diseases that were rife through all the region of the Isthmus combined together for the discouragement of the French Company, which abandoned the project as impossible of execution. But America was not so easily disheartened. She obtained the French rights in the Canal by purchase, and began at the work in a great way. She made war upon the mosquitoes, and cleaned up the Canal Zone by modern methods of sanitation. Malaria and yellow fever were conquered, and the region of the Isthmus which had been made so

fatal to Frenchmen was transformed into a residential district in which the death rate was less than in many cities of the temperate zone. Armies of workmen, for whom good homes had been provided, and wholesome recreation also, to the end that their mental health should be conserved, swarmed over the back bone of the continent, and directed powerful streams of water to cut down the hills, while monster dredges carried forward the excavation till the water way was clear from ocean to ocean, and the Atlantic and the Pacific were united in an enduring alliance. It was a work which in its magnitude, and particularly in the speed of its execution, far outranks the pyramids of Egypt, and which deserves even more than they to be ranked among the wonders of the world.

And more recently, when France and England stood in need of an immense loan of money, in order to sustain the value of inter-

national exchange which was running heavily against them, it was to America that they turned for financial aid. At the first there was speech of the enormous sum of a thousand million of dollars, but when it came to the point the amount was made five hundred million. No such financial transaction in a single operation had ever been attempted before, but that did not disturb the confidence of American financiers in the resources or courage of their country. The French and English committeemen crossed the Atlantic and held their conferences with our bankers in New York and Chicago. A few weeks were given to the arrangement of details. The French and English governments voted approval, the men who had been in conference signed the contract, and the thing was done. In fact the loan was largely over-subscribed. It was the most stupendous and the most courageous financial enterprise ever undertaken in the annals of time.

The American man is chivalrous, and displays this fine trait in superior measure. Very probably his right to this distinction might be subject to question in some foreign capitals, for he is not inclined to maintain his honor by personal contest, either by fist or pistol. The duello as the arbiter of gentlemanly differences has gone out of fashion on American soil. Partly owing to this fact our Americans are liable to be misconstrued and misinterpreted among other nationalities. Europe often makes her estimate of us as cute, capable and over conceited and quite too much bent on the chase of the nimble dollar to be actually high-minded and magnanimous. We are erecting magnificent mansions, speeding about in palatial yachts, covering our wives with a blaze of jewels, and scattering our cash all over Europe with a careless prodigality, which princes may not emulate, at least not till they have annexed an American consort, and along with her a towering bank account. In all the

hostelries abroad it is the current belief that all Americans are millionaires; an error which they might promptly dissipate were they to visit us and view for themselves how moderate circumstances here are the rule, and the having millions is the exception.

All the same the lavishness affected by our Americans who travel abroad is to be taken as the extreme and the incidental. The American without doubt is a money-getter, but he does not pursue money so much for its own sake, as for what it may bring. He seeks it as a means to certain uses. And some of these uses are of the most beneficent character, for they are nothing less than the founding of colleges and hospitals, and providing them with an equipment, which for convenience and completeness is unparalled. For an instance of such munificence it needs but to cite the Institute for Medical Research in New York City. In this great institution new surgical methods have been tried out and approved,

and obscure diseases have been studied, and remedies for them have been discovered which afford relief for human ills that heretofore have been considered hopelessly incurable. The institutions of this sort that America provides in profusion have won for her a deserved recognition among the thoughtful everywhere.

A notable instance of real beneficence is that of the Mayo brothers of Rochester, Minnesota. At the first these gentlemen were simply obscure country surgeons. They commenced practice after thorough preparation in a little town which had under eight thousand inhabitants. There they established a private hospital in which they conducted the severest surgical operations with a brilliancy an audacity, a skill and a success which won them national recognition and international fame. Their little town through their professional superiority has become a miracle place of healing, a center to which patients

come thronging from all parts of the world, and to which distinguished practitioners of their own profession make pilgrimage from the leading hospitals of Europe in order to observe and imitate the orignal methods of these accomplished brothers. And now these men, who have prospered in the conduct of their profession, have set apart a trust fund of two millions of dollars to provide for the foundation and maintenance of a great hospital, in which their methods are to be reproduced and perpetuated, so that their brothers and sisters in misfortune may continue to have relief from their disorders long after these benefactors of their kind have passed from the land of the living.

When we observe our American manhood so solicitously concerned for the welfare of others, and promoting it by the help of such splendid beneficences, we can no longer accuse it of being immersed in materialism, but on the contrary must recognize our American

man as the knightly soul of the Twentieth century. The American man is chivalrous: chivalrous toward womanhood. Travelers on their return from abroad inform us that the gentlemen of Europe are chivalrous toward women that they know or toward women of their own social position, but they also tell us that the men of Europe, setting aside a conspicuous few, are vampires toward unprotected women, with whom they are unacquainted, and whom they humiliate by their insulting advances. Ladies whom I know well, and whose word I have every reason to trust completely, have told me how when they were in some foreign capital, they have met officers of the army in full uniform, three or four of them together, who have monopolized the sidewalk and forced the lady into the street, and sometimes this happened when the mud in the gutter was almost ankle deep. Had they known the lady they would have been all bows and graciousness, and have taken to

the gutter themselves rather than cause her inconvenience, but for the strange lady they had no politeness to spare. No such incident could occur in America, not even in the slum district of the cities. Here womanhood is honored, known or unknown, and is assisted and protected. So long as she minds her own affairs and is self-respecting, any woman can travel unattended through the length and breadth of the land, as safely as if she were folded in her father's arms; and in case any brute in human form ventures to molest her by word or act, she has but to lift her voice to array all decent men, even if utter strangers in her defence. The American man idealizes Woman. As a child she is the charm and favorite of the home. When she marries, her husband toils for her early and late, and lavishes on her everything he has. With our men of the better class the wife does about as she pleases. She asks for what she wants, and obtains it when in reason, and frequently

also when it is out of reason. She gives elaborate entertainments, when her husband were he to indicate his preference would far rather have none of them, so that he might have a quiet domestic evening at home. When he covers her with jewels it is because he desired to give her a pleasure. She may start off on her travels and wander all over her own country, or all over Europe, during which time he is left to his own devices; but though his heart may be lonely, he will not suffer a murmur to escape. The American woman, because of the chivalry of her mate, is the uncrowned queen of the age.

The American man loves children. He loves to see them. He loves to see them happy. He loves to see them growing up toward strength and usefulness. He delights to extend them care and protection. Where in all the annals of chivalry will you find the knightly spirit better exemplified than it was shown on the Lusitania, when she was sinking

into the sea? On her way to her English port, while off the Irish coast, with no note of warning whatever to her passengers to prepare for saving their lives, the fatal torpedo smote her in the vitals, and she was dropping by the head for the final plunge. In that awful moment the conduct of all the men, save one cowardly cabin steward, was sublime. All but that one, whether British, American, or others, were eager to help the women and children into the boats, and for the men to go with them only as they were necessary for giving help, or when there were no more waiting to be saved. But first and foremost among the brave men of that hour was the American millionaire, a man of the class that the thoughtless cultivate a habit of sneering at and reviling. In that moment of soul trial, when all hearts were bare before the sight of God and man, Alfred G. Vanderbilt proved himself more than the man of wealth: he was the chivalrous American. That word of his

to his chauffeur, as he hurried down into the inky blackness between decks where the lights had all been extinguished by the explosion, will live on forever. "Come," said he, "let us save the kiddies." Caring for the children then, with no consideration for his own life; seeking to save them, although he was almost certain to perish in the attempt, was his supreme thought, a thought characteristic of the supreme development of American manhood.

American manhood is honest. This is to be declared and maintained in spite of all the rascals who have shown themselves to be dishonest, and in consequence have been sent to the penitentiary; and in spite of all their brother rascals who so far have escaped the toils of justice, and also in spite of all the demagogues and muckrakers who spend so much time in trying to cheat the people into believing that every statesman is a scheming fraud, and every manufacturer is a slave-driver, and

every man who has attained eminence in religious circles is a Uriah Heep or a Gradgrind. Were our social and business world half so corrupt as some of the industrious purveyors of libel are striving to make out, it would explode before morning with the over-pressure of its own foul gases. But the world moves on, and does not explode, and this proves that it is better than some of the too credulous give it credit for.

When we get to the rock bottom facts in the case it will be found that our American industrial system and our commercial practices are based on the solid foundation of character and good will.

A few years back there grew up a suspicion that some of our great business concerns were being conducted on lines that gave them an unfair advantage over their competitors. In some quarters there were secret rebates in the sale of transportation, and also undue pressure under which the smaller business houses

were being forced to the wall. When this was understood, laws were passed which would correct injustice in business transactions. In notable instances some of the great corporations cleaned house for themselves before the new laws went into operation. When the injustice was brought to their attention they corrected it themselves.

The conduct of our leading banks is proverbial for efficiency and for the safety of the funds of clients and depositors.

The chief mercantile firms of the country have the intention to give full value for value received. Our vast credit system, which renders possible our extended trade, both home and foreign, has for its corner-stone the conviction that the mass of our business men intend to meet their financial obligations when they mature. This is a wholesome condition, but if it were to be disturbed from any cause; if the idea should gain ground that the American business man is turning toward dishon-

est practices, that he generally is laying plans to default on his contracts and cheat his creditors, we would be smitten by a commercial panic that would blast our business fabric with the violence of a tropical tornado.

But there is no such prospect in sight. American business men are calling for the square deal all around, and for the suppression of all trickery and chicane. The politician who barters his influence for position or cash soon has no position. The voters will not endorse his misconduct and will elect him to abide at home. And the voter who sells his vote, and the go-between who bribes the voter, are both of them scorned and despised, and are liable to be indicted under the corrupt practice act, and given a place of entertainment where they will have leisure to reflect on the development of political honor and honesty.

And so on every side there are higher ideals before us, higher ideals in the administration

of law, higher ideals in the conduct of elections, and higher ideals in the administration of public funds. Grover Cleveland set the standard in his apt expression, "Public office is a public trust." And the atmosphere of business in this country at the present time indicates the intention to adjust industrial conditions in a manner to promote the payment of a living wage, to give proper compensation to workmen for injuries sustained while engaged in labor, and to circumscribe the hours of labor for women and children, so that neither may be injured by working to excess.

Possibly the greatest outcry against the honesty of American men is that which is directed at the integrity of Wall street, which many persons because of lack of accurate information are prone to regard as the centre and cesspool of financial iniquity. Hardly a day passes without some cross roads orator, or his brother of the soap box, vociferating the accusation that Wall Street is a den of

thieves and gamblers. But Wall street is not so bad as it is painted. Those who are familiar with the methods employed in the purchase and sale of securities as conducted in the Stock Exchange have reason to smile at the current libels on our bankers and brokers. The broker who has a seat in the Exchange buys and sells securities as an agent for his customers. He does not trade on his own account at all. Were he to commence speculating in stocks and bonds for himself, or were he to risk the capital of his firm by ventures on the turn of the market, he would immediately forfeit the confidence of his business associates, and his customers would desert him as soon as they discovered that he was engaged in such practices. But this does not happen. The broker receives orders to buy or to sell from his clients, and he has as good a right to buy and sell securities on the market as the grocer has to buy sugar and tea and sell them over the counter, or as the country merchant

has to buy apples and eggs and ship them to his city buyer.

No, it is not the banker or broker in Wall Street who is to be taken to task for plunging and gambling, and we must look otherwhere to find the culprit who is giving the street its bad name. As a rule the real offender is someone from outside, some street speculator, some clerk in an office, or some business man who wants to take a "flier," and who directs his broker to buy or sell, when he knows as little about the actual value of securities he is trading in as he does of the number of hairs in the moutaches of the man in the moon; or perhaps it is the man from Podunk Corners who wires his broker to sell a thousand Steel common short on a bull market, and in consequence has been shaven and shorn so close to the hide that it would be hard to tell whether what he lost were lamb's wool or bristles. That is the sort of man who overloads the circumambient ether with his ululations about

thieves and gamblers. But if his little venture had netted him a thousand or two, instead of cleaning him out, he would probably never have peeped a word about gambling, though he himself was the naughty party all the time.

As a matter of fact the business of the Stock Exchange is conducted on the basis of absolute honesty and good faith. A broker who might be suspected of a shady transaction would be warned by the Governors of the Exchange, and if after that he were caught in actual dishonesty he would be shut out from the floor and his seat sold at auction. Much of the business of the Exchange is conducted in a din that is deafening, and which precludes the use of ordinary speech, and securities are disposed of at an advance or a drop of a sixteenth, or an eighth, which is indicated by a motion of the finger, and one transaction follows so close on the heels of another that the operator hardly has time to note its figure on

his tablets. Here would be the finest chance imaginable for the man who wished to cheat his neighbor to claim misunderstanding of a bid, or of a sale. But it is seldom that such a question is ever raised, even though the trade means the loss of hundreds or thousands to the one or the other.

As a rule then we must conclude that the American man is honest himself, and that he delights to find the same trait in others about him. No, I confess that I am proud of the honor and honesty of our Americans. They love the right and they wish to do right, and when they find that some of their business methods are not up to the standard of conscientious conviction, they will be found engaged in the task of altering them, and bringing their transactions up to the mark where they will square with the best and highest conceptions of commercial integrity.

As a final characteristic of American manhood to be mentioned now there is presented

that generous spirit, which is keen to hear the plea of the world's distresses, and which extends a ready hand to ameliorate the condition of those who suffer from any serious calamity.

Years ago there were widespread famines in Ireland. Heavy rains had fallen, and a blight had ruined the potato crop, which was the main food supply of the country. Whole districts were reported in which the people were starving and dying by wholesale. When Ireland lifted up her anxious appeal America responded at once. Ships were laden at American docks with flour and other food products, and they crossed the sea under the American flag with their welcome cargoes. Of all help extended to Ireland in those fateful years, that which came from America was the most prompt and the most generous in amount.

When a large part of Chicago was devastated by flame, and when the earthquake

rocked and destroyed the main part of San Francisco, at the first news that came over the wires, preparations were made to send relief, and soon the heavy trains were thundering westward, laden with tents to shelter the homeless, and crowded with provisions of every sort to feed the hungry for weeks, till they were once more able to shift for themselves.

It is but recently that plucky little Belgium was reported to be starving because she was overrun by a hostile army, and the food that had been stored for feeding her citizens had been seized by the invaders and sent out of the country, or converted to the use of the army that come on its own invitation. In such case what could America do? She might have said to herself that Belgium should not have resisted the army that sought to cross her borders. She might have said to herself that for her to feed the Belgians would be giving aid and comfort indirectly to the con-

querors, whose duty it was for themselves to feed the conquered. But it is not the way in America in time of emergency to hesitate and haggle and quibble over questions such as these, respecting the rights and wrongs of which posterity will be the judge. And so America's generous heart responded at once to the pressing need, and committees were formed and funds were solicited. The rich gave of their wealth, and the poorer gave their dimes and nickels, and the supplies were gathered and sent in splendid profusion. Altogether no less than seven millions was the valuation of food, clothing and hospital supplies that America poured into Belgium in the first year of her calamity.

When the Lusitania went down off the coast of Ireland, carrying her sad toll of hundreds of lives, a thrill of horror convulsed our land from border to border. Abhorrence at the deed was not confined to any class or to any section of the nation, for the expression

of indignation arose from every quarter at such wanton destruction of human life, and at the inexcusable blunder of killing women and children, who were hurried to their watery grave absolutely innocent of any harm to those who perpetrated the outrage. The outburst of wrath, which was so spontaneous and so widespread, created astonishment in the minds of some people in Central Europe, who seem to have been so constituted by nature or education that they saw nothing but a few lives cut short; and to be unable to comprehend why America should be so incensed at the loss of a comparative few, while thousands were dying in the trenches, or on the open field of strife. They missed completely the difference which exists between the wanton killing of non-combatants, and the act of war when opposing armies contend against each other in battle array, and when both sides are well aware of the dangers which they incur. The difference of comprehension at this

point marks the outstanding divergence on the part of the nations of Central Europe from the humanitarian ideals that rule in the soul of the man who is built and educated according to the American type. The American man is a different creature from any that of those nations know, and for that reason they fail to understand his mental processes, or to see wherein certain procedures which they are very prone to take will meet with his instant and positive disapproval.

And we who are Americans have cause to be heartily grateful for the kind of man who grows up on this side of the Atlantic; alert, and practical, and good-humored, and courageous, and chivalrous, and generous, with a warm heart that swells with compassion for any world-wide sorrow; and have the right to thank God for the heritage which we enjoy in these worthy American traits, and to hold the conviction that this strong type of American manhood is so well fixed and established,

that we may feel secure in the confidence that it will survive and improve with the coming changes of coming time.

Is it possible that this portrait of our average American has been drawn with too free and too partial a hand? And yet there are others who will confirm the accuracy of the presentation, and will affirm that it is no exaggeration at all. That great Polish genius, the same who wrote *Quo Vadis,* that masterly picture of Christianity in the time of Nero, is an admirer of our race. In a letter sent last year to the Polish Committee of the Emergency Aid Association of New York City, Henri Sienkiewicz expressed the view that America is destined to become the conscience of the world. In this letter he remarks,

"It seems to me that the principles of Christian love and brotherhood, banished from Europe, had to cross the ocean in search of refuge, and that they found it in the heart of the American citizen."

From this he proceeds to say, and I can use no language which would be more fitting to express the thought,

"Their generosity has saved thousands of unfortunates from starvation; but the task of America is not yet accomplished; with God's help she will in the following years become the conscience of the world, and propagate the ideas of justice, such as the triumph of law over force, and the restitution of freedom to all oppressed nations, the rehabiliation of these principles being the sole guarantee of peace and a happy future for all mankind."

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